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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6816
C O N F I D E N T I A L SFOUL 8433
EXDIS
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CIVILETTI, BENJAMIN), PINS, KS, US
SUBJ: TONG-SUN PARK: VISIT BY JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS
REF: STATE 239107

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By Elizabeth Kelly NARA, Date Aug. 14, 1998

1. SINCE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTERY YOON WAS TIED UP IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, POLITICAL COUNSELOR MET WITH AMERICAN BUREAU DIRECTOR PARK SANG YONG WITH RESPECT REFTEL. POLCOUNS, STRESSING NEED COORDINATE ANY RELEASE TO PRESS, PASSED ON NAMES OF JUSTICE TEAM AND ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES. HE DISCUSSED WITH PARK ARRANGEMENTS FOR CIVILETTI AND MICHEL TO MEET WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND OTHER MOJ OFFICIALS, NOTING THAT OUR DESIRE TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS AT JUSTICE-TO-JUSTICE LEVEL ONLY.
2. PARK SAID HE WAS AWARE OF NEED TO COORDINATE VISIT AND WOULD GET BACK TO POLCOUNS AFTER DISCUSSION WITH MOJ. HE STATED HE DID NOT HAVE OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF NAMES OF MOJ OFFICIALS WHO WOULD BE INVOLVED. POLCOUNS AGAIN STRESSED NEED TO HANDLE PRESS MATTERS IN A MOST CAREFUL MANNER AND INFORMED PARK THAT JUSTICE TEAM DID NOT WISH TO MEET WITH PRESS WHILE IN SEOUL. PARK SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD REQUIREMENTS IN THIS REGARD AND PROMISED COOPERATION OF ROK.

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3. PRESS REPORTS HERE INDICATE THAT MOST LIKELY REPRESENTATIVES OF MOJ TO MEET WITH US TEAM ARE VICE MINISTER LEE CHONG-WON AND CHIEF OF PUBLIC SECURITY DIVISION OF SEOUL DISTRICT PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, AN KYONG-SANG. LEE IS AN OLD-LINE PROSECUTOR WHO ASSUMED HIS PRESENT POSITION IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR. BORN IN 1926 HE IS A GRUADUATE OF KOREA UNIVERSITY WHO HAS DONE GRADUATE WORK AT COLUMBIA. HE CAME TO PUBLIC NOTICE SHORTLY AFTER 1961 COUP IN RELATION TO HIS WORK TO REDUCE ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES. WE ARE CURRENTLY TRYING TO WORK UP INFORMATION ON AN KYONG-SANG. HE IS REPORTED TO BE OFFICIAL WHO QUESTIONED PAK TONG-SON MOST. IF NOT ALL, OF THE TIMES HE WAS SUMMONED TO SEOUL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE. FULLER BIO WILL BE PROVIDED AS AVAILABLE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION THAT THESE TWO OFFICIALS WILL, IN FACT, CONSTITUTE ROK TEAM.

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4. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FOR ALL REQUIREMENTS DESIRED BY JUSTICE OFFICIALS. WE WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO PROVIDE APARTMENT IN EMBASSY COMPOUND IN LIEU OF CHOSON HOTEL. THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD HAVE ADVANTAGE OF PROVIDING GREATER PRIVACY AND REDUCING PRESS EFFORTS TO CORNER CIVILETTI AND MICHEL.
5. I WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH JUSTICE OFFICIALS AFTER ARRIVAL AND ANTICIPATE THAT ROK OFFICIALS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THEY WILL WISH TO GET TOGETHER WITH JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON SUNDAY.
6. WITH RESPECT TO PRESS, AS RESULT OF MY PROTESTATIONS
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ABOUT PRESS LEAK LAST WEEK, PRIME MINISTER TOLD ME THAT HE HAD DIRECTED MINISTER OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION, KIM SEONG-JIN, TO KEEP LID ON AND COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH US ON ANY STATEMENTS TO PRESS DURING VISIT OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. MINISTER KIM HAS DESIGNATED SENIOR PRESS OFFICIAL IN HIS MINISTRY TO COORDINATE WITH COUNTERPART IN US EMBASSY ON AGREED DAILY PRESS LINE, IF THIS ARRANGEMENT AGREEABLE TO WASHINGTON.
7. WOULD APPRECIATE PRESS GUIDANCE ON WHEN DATES OF VISIT WILL BE RELEASED.
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